

Attorney Docket Number: 6771USP4

Filing Date: September 11, 2003

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following:

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of and claims the benefit of priority from Application No. 10/652,182 (Atty Docket No. 6771USP3), filed Aug. 29, 2003, which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 10/357,984, filed Feb. 4, 2003, which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 10/152,272, filed May 20, 2002, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,964,668, which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/651,344, filed Aug. 29, 2000, which is a division of Application No. 09/262,402, filed on Mar. 4, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,136,010. The disclosures of Application Nos. 09/651,344, [10/152,272,] and 10/357,984, as well as U.S. Pat. No. 6,136,010 and 6,964,668 are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace paragraph [0214] with the following:

[0214] FIG. 51 shows an enlarged end view of the proximal end 622 of the housing 618 of FIG. 49. As shown in FIG. 51, housing 618 is a hollow body having proximal opening 623 and an inner surface 621. In this embodiment, suture cutting blade [691] 692 is mounted on the inner surface 621 within the proximal opening, such that when the suture is withdrawn from the housing, the suture can be moved laterally to be drawn across the suture cutting blade [691] 692 and severed.